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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/522,359	06/27/2005	Bernard Cuenoud	PR/4-32610A	1418
1095	7590	01/09/2007	EXAMINER	
NOVARTIS CORPORATE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ONE HEALTH PLAZA 104/3 EAST HANOVER, NJ 07936-1080			STOCKTON, LAURA LYNNE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1626	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		01/09/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/522,359	CUENOUD ET AL.	
	Examiner Laura L. Stockton, Ph.D.	Art Unit 1626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on January 26, 2005 {Prelim. Amendment}.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-8 and 15-28 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-8 and 15-28 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/26/2005&6/27/2005.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-8 and 15-28 are pending in the application.

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a) - (d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner has considered the Information Disclosure Statement(s) filed on January 26, 2005 and June 27, 2005.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple

assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-8 and 15-27 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 21-40 of copending Application No. 10/585,625. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not

patentably distinct from each other because the instant claimed invention is generically described and claim in copending Application No. 10/585,625. See page 19, lines 13-16 of the instant specification; claim 21 in copending Application No. 10/585,625 wherein the medicament can comprise a compound of formula I alone; and the last species in claim 25 in copending Application No. 10/585,625.

The indiscriminate selection of "some" among "many" is *prima facie* obvious, In re Lemin, 141 USPQ 814 (1964). The motivation to make the claimed compounds derives from the expectation that structurally similar compounds would possess similar activity (e.g., treating obstructive airways disease).

One skilled in the art would thus be motivated to prepare products embraced by the prior art to arrive at the instant claimed products with the expectation of obtaining additional beneficial products which would be useful in treating, for example, obstructive airways

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disease. The instant claimed invention would have been suggested to one skilled in the art and therefore, the instant claimed invention would have been obvious to one skilled in the art.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it

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pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

In In re Wands, 8 USPQ2d 1400 (1988), factors to be considered in determining whether a disclosure meets the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, have been described. They are:

1. the nature of the invention,
2. the state of the prior art,
3. the predictability or lack thereof in the art,
4. the amount of direction or guidance present,
5. the presence or absence of working examples,
6. the breadth of the claims,
7. the quantity of experimentation needed, and
8. the level of the skill in the art.

The nature of the invention

Applicant is claiming a method of treating a condition that is prevented or alleviated by activation of the β_2 -adrenoreceptor by administering a compound of

formula (I). See instant claim 25. From the reading of the specification, it appears that Applicant is asserting that the embraced compounds, because of their mode action which involves Beta-2-adrenoreceptor agonist activity, would be useful for treating or preventing numerous diseases and disorders such as asthma, bronchitis, premature labor pains, acute lung injury, chronic obstructive pulmonary airways or lung disease, etc.

The state of the prior art and the predictability or lack thereof in the art

The state of the prior art is that COPD therapy, for example, remains highly unpredictable. Barnes et al. {European Respiratory Journal (2005), 25(6), pages 1084-1106} state "Current therapy for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) has improved but there is still a pressing need for new therapeutic approaches, particularly in reducing the progression and mortality of this disease." Barnes et al. also

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state "There is a pressing need for the development of new therapies for COPD, particularly as no existing treatment has been shown to reduce the disease progression." Barnes et al. discuss the difficulties in drug development (page 1085, first column) as well as drugs which are presently used to manage COPD. There is no absolute predictability even in view of the seemingly high level of skill in the art. The existence of these obstacles establishes that the contemporary knowledge in the art would prevent one of ordinary skill in the art from accepting any therapeutic regimen on its face.

The amount of direction or guidance present and the presence or absence of working examples

There is no evidence of record, which would enable the skilled artisan in the identification of the people who have the potential of becoming afflicted with the numerous diseases or disorders claimed herein. That a single class of compounds can be used to treat all

conditions embraced by the claims that are prevented or alleviated by activation of the β_2 -adrenoreceptor is an incredible finding for which Applicant has not provided supporting evidence. Applicant has not provided any competent evidence or disclosed tests that are highly predictive for the pharmaceutical use for treating all conditions that are prevented or alleviated by activation of the β_2 -adrenoreceptor by administering the instant claimed compounds.

The breadth of the claims

The breadth of the claims is treating all conditions that are prevented or alleviated by activation of the β_2 -adrenoreceptor is generically embraced in the claim language.

The quantity of experimentation needed

The nature of the pharmaceutical arts is that it involves screening in vitro and in vivo to determine which compounds exhibit the desired pharmacological activities for each of the diseases and disorders

instantly claimed. The quantity of experimentation needed would be undue when faced with the lack of direction and guidance present in the instant specification in regards to testing all diseases and disorders generically embraced in the claim language, and when faced with the unpredictability of the pharmaceutical art. Thus, factors such as "sufficient working examples", "the level of skill in the art" and predictability, etc. have been demonstrated to be sufficiently lacking in the instant case for the instant method claims.

The level of the skill in the art

Even though the level of skill in the pharmaceutical art is very high, based on the unpredictable nature of the invention and state of the prior art and lack of guidance and direction, one skilled in the art could not use the claimed invention without undue experimentation.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 15-18 do not further limit independent claim 1 because optically active R and S isomers are not embraced by claim 1. Also, since claims 15-18 do not end with a period, it is unclear if additionally unrecited subject matter is missing in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the

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differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-8 and 15-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. {WO 99/09018} and in combination with Bonnert et al. {U.S. Pat. 5,648,370}.

Determination of the scope and content of the prior art (MPEP §2141.01)

Applicant claims benzothiazolone compounds. Suzuki et al. teach benzothiazolone compounds which are structurally similar to the instant claimed compounds (pages 4-6).

Ascertainment of the difference between the prior art and the claims (MPEP §2141.02)

The difference between the compounds of the prior art and the compounds instantly claimed is that the instant claimed compounds are generically described in the prior art.

Further, Bonnert et al. teach benzothiazolone compounds, which are structurally similar to Suzuki et al. (see Formula I in column 1; and especially column 5, lines 39-46), that are useful in treating bronchial asthma, allergic asthma, etc. (column 6, lines 42-52). Bonnert et al. teach substituents defined by the instant $-R^1-Ar-R^2$ group. Bonnert et al. also teach the process of instant claim 28 (column 2, step d).

Finding of prima facie obviousness--rational and motivation (MPEP
§2142-2413)

The indiscriminate selection of "some" among "many" is *prima facie* obvious, *In re Lemin*, 141 USPQ 814 (1964). The motivation to make the claimed compounds derives from the expectation that structurally similar compounds would possess similar activity (e.g., allergic asthma).

One skilled in the art would thus be motivated to prepare products embraced by Suzuki et al., and especially in view of the teachings of Bonnert et al.,

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to arrive at the instant claimed products with the expectation of obtaining additional beneficial products which would be useful in treating, for example, allergic asthma. The instant claimed invention would have been suggested to one skilled in the art and therefore, the instant claimed invention would have been obvious to one skilled in the art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura L. Stockton whose telephone number is (571) 272-0710. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:15 am to 2:45 pm. If the examiner is out of the Office, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph McKane, can be reached on (571) 272-0699.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO

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Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

The Official fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.



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January 3, 2007